December 7 – 13, 2023 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 49 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 138, No. 49

Stray dogs found in Sumpter Township will be cared for by the Brownstown Township Animal Shelter along with the Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue.

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THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 49

The Canton Cobras may be the future while the Canton Chiefs will remain the revered historic mascot of Canton High School.

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THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 76, No. 49

An Inkster man has been sentenced to life in prison for the fatal stabbing of a 60-year-old Inkster man and his dog last year.

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THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
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THE ROMULUS ROMAN
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Romulus residents have only until Dec. 15 to nominate a candidate as the 37th Annual Person of the Year.

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE
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The Compassion Project at the Westland City Council meeting on Monday, Nov. 6 introduced three outstanding students from three different elementary schools.

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5 seeking unexpired state representative term

Two elections will determine the new State House Representative from the 25th District.

Former representative Kevin Coleman, a democrat, resigned the state office following his successful campaign to become mayor of Westland. The 25th District encompasses the City of Wayne and portions of Canton Township and Westland.

The lone republican seeking to complete Coleman's term, Josh Powell, is unopposed in the primary election set for Tuesday, Jan. 30. As the only republican on the ballot, Powell will face the winning democratic candidate in the election set for April 16 to fill the term which expires at the end of next year. Powell is a Westland resident who has been unsuccessful in several campaigns for a city council seat.

> *"Democrats seeking the $71,685 salaried state position in Lansing include two current members of the Westland City Council.*

Democrats seeking the $71,685 salaried state position in Lansing include two current members of the Westland City Council and a serving member of the Wayne Westland Community Schools Board of Education.

Seeking the unexpired term is Coleman's cousin, Peter Herzberg, a Westland resident, is currently serving on the city council. Should he be elected to the state office, the other members of the city council would name a replacement to serve the remainder of his term which expires at the end of 2025. A council member since 2016, Herzberg graduated from John Glenn High School before earning his bachelor's degree in finance from Wayne State University.

Current Wayne Westland Community Schools Board of Education member Melandie Hines is also seeking the vacant state house seat. Should Hines be the choice of voters, a replacement to serve the remainder of her term which expires in 2026 would be named by the other school board trustees. Hines holds a dual master's degree in business management and human resources management from Phoenix University as well as a bachelor's degree in behavior arts and science with a specialization in criminal justice from Saginaw Valley State University.

Also seeking the state office is City of Wayne resident Shannon Rochon. He is employed as the director of partnerships for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, according to his LinkedIn profile. Rochon earned his bachelor's at Eastern Michigan University and attended Harvard University.

Westland City Council Pro-tem Andrea Rutkowski will also be on the primary ballot. If Rutkowski is successful in her bid to fill Coleman's vacant term, the remaining members of the council would appoint a replacement to serve her term which continues through 2027. She is employed as a teacher and is involved with local community groups like the Wayne Ford Civic League and the VFW Post 9885.

Layla Taha, a Westland resident, who is a program manager for Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib (D-Detroit), has also filed paperwork to be on the January primary election ballot. She earned her bachelor of arts degrees at University of Michigan and her master degree at Columbia University.

Both her bachelor's degrees are in international studies in Global Environment and her master's degree is in public health.

Living and Learning

$15,000 grant will help fund programs for disabled youth

Living and Learning Enrichment Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities, has received a $15,000 grant from the Wendell and Doris Rogers Foundation (WDRF) for the second consecutive year. The contribution will support the essential operations of the organization, officials said.

Living and Learning Enrichment Center was founded in 2015 by Rachelle Vartanian and is a 501C3 charity headquartered in the former Don Massey estate in Northville.

The Wendell and Doris Rogers Foundation, known for its commitment to enhancing the lives of veterans and their families, at-risk youth, and youth with disabilities, continues to be a beacon of hope and support for communities in need, center officials said.

"General operating support is often the most challenging to secure, yet it is crucial for our organization," said Jennifer Provenzano, grants and outreach specialist at Living and Learning. "This generous grant from the WD Rogers Foundation enables us to maintain and improve vital functions ranging from staff wages to facility utilities, ensuring that we can continue to provide exceptional services to our community."

Living and Learning Enrichment Center was founded in 2015 by Rachelle Vartanian and is a 501C3 charity headquartered in Northville, in the former Don Massey estate.

Vartanian graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in teaching for the emotionally impaired. After college, she worked at lock up center for adjudicated youth for 10 years and during this time, she went back to school and obtained a master's degree in educational psychology with a concentration in personality and development.

See **Center,** page 6

Mistletoe Market and Christmas in Plymouth will begin today

Mistletoe Market begins today in downtown Plymouth as part of the highly anticipated Christmas in Plymouth celebration.

The popular Christmas in Plymouth event will take place today and continue tomorrow with horse drawn carriage rides, special decorations, sales, carolers and holiday entertainment. The popular Mistletoe Market Craft show will be open from 4 until 9 p.m. today, Thursday, and from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 8. The market takes place at The Gathering, 760 Penniman Ave., across from Kellogg Park, near the Penn Theatre

Early shoppers can get a head start at 4 p.m. today or 11 a.m. tomorrow and get ahead of the rush, organizers suggested. Local vendors will feature one of a kind Michigan made treasures, arts, crafts and culinary gifts and treats. In addition to the 40 vendors at The Gathering, booths and tents will be installed along Penniman for added vendors and sales.

There will be a free performance by the Synergy Dance Academy and bleacher seating will be available to accommodate the anticipated crowd for the popular entertainment. In addition, Candy Cane Corner

See **Market,** page 3

Northville

Parks and recreation senior services supervisor named

Debbie Giulianelli-Smith has been named as the new Northville Parks & Recreation Senior Services Supervisor.

Giulianelli-Smith has had a long relationship with Northville Parks & Recreation before her Oct. 30 start date. She and her family are longtime patrons of various Northville recreation programs, she said. Her two sons, now college-age, learned to swim through Northville Parks & Recreation classes and she discovered how to make wire-wrapped jewelry about 15 years ago. While she and her family live in Farmington Hills, she has a Northville address.

Giulianelli-Smith said she is excited to take the reins and lead in these familiar services. She previously worked at the City of Farmington Hills Senior Division since 2018, most recently as Senior Adult Programmer.

"Here, my immediate goal is to build our program up with extended activities through the afternoon," Giulianelli-Smith said. "It's primarily a morning senior center and we will transition to more afternoon activities in 2024."

Her professional career includes stints as a substitute preschool aide, an independent cooking consultant and a product coordinator for a resort vacation operator. Her volunteer career is extensive as well. She assisted the Boy Scouts of America, Farmington Marching Band, Farmington United Percussion Ensemble and the San Marino Social Club in Troy, where she was a day camp coordinator.

It's the social aspect of parks and recreation that she finds rewarding, she said.

"I love connecting with people and helping them find whatever services they need or events they may want to attend," Giulianelli-Smith said.

She's already accomplished this in her first few weeks, said Northville Parks & Recreation said Director Derek O. Smith, who is no relation to Giulianelli-Smith.

"Her ability to engage with the community immediately portends an active and robust senior center. That's exciting for our residents."

She holds a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University, where she majored in recreation/travel and tourism, with a minor in business management.

Her love of creating jewelry continues. She's a lampwork glass artist primarily making glass beads, which she often uses in her jewelry designs.

Her proudest work is her family, she said. She and her husband Jeff are the parents of sons Alex and Elliott, along with their two dogs, Amelia and Ruby.

Giulianelli-Smith is a first-generation U.S. citizen. Her parents are from San Marino, a small country within Italy, so she has dual citizenship.

Northville Parks & Recreation is a shared service provided through an agreement between the Charter Township of Northville and the City of Northville to jointly operate Parks and Recreation, Senior Services and Northville Youth Network.

Debbie Giulianelli-Smith

"I'm looking forward to serving the Northville community," Giulianelli-Smith added.

Rolling along

The Northville Township Public Safety Department had a temporary recruit last week when Alyssa Benvenuti, a graduate student at Madonna University joined both the police and fire department for 12-hour shifts including a ride-along. She completed the first-hand experience as part of her class program and rode for 12-hours with the Northville Township Fire Department and another with the Northville Township Police Department. Benvenuti is pursuing her degree in nutrition at the college and said she gained valuable insights through these experiences into the physical demands of public safety jobs, observing how first-responders integrate hydration and nutrition into their daily routines. Benvenuti has crafted a comprehensive plan for both departments to optimize their dietary habits, aiming to boost their energy levels throughout the day as part of her classwork.

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NORTHVILLE PARKS & RECREATION
775 N CENTER STREET, SUITE B
NORTHVILLE, MI 48167
PUBLIC NOTICE

THE NORTHVILLE PARKS and RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be on display for public review and input for a period of 30 days prior to a City of Northville Public Hearing date of January 18, 2024, at 7:00 PM (215 W. Main Street, Northville, MI, 48167), and a Charter Township of Northville Public Hearing date of January 18, 2024, at 7:00 PM (44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI, 48168). Beginning December 8, 2023, the Plan will be located and available to residents at the Parks and Recreation offices at 775 N Center St., Suite B, Northville, MI 48167; Northville City Hall located at 215 W. Main Street, Northville, MI, 48167; and Northville Township Hall located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI, 48168; during normal business hours. The Plan can also be viewed online at www.northvilleparksandrec.org. Comments will be received via email at recreation@twp.northville.mi.us. Please call 248-349-0203 with any questions.

Cynthia L. Jankowski, Clerk

Published: December 7, 2023

NT0237 - 120723 2.5 x 2.109

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Northville Charter Township as the Responsible Entity under Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the Community Project Funding and HUD Grant #B-22-CP-MI-0441. The proposed project(s) is located along a 0.5 mile long stretch of 5 Mile Road on the border of Plymouth and Northville Townships between a point 1600-ft west of Ridge Road and a point 1000-ft east of Ridge Road. At the point 1000-ft east of Ridge Road the new sewer will connect to the existing sanitary sewer line and the current Western Township's Utility Authority (WTUA) interceptor. The project will provide sanitary sewer service to a development west of Ridge Road as a part of the Michigan International Technology Center (MITC) initiative. 0.074 acres of Palustrine Emergent Persistent (PEM1) wetland directly adjacent to the road are anticipated to be impacted by the project. Approximately 150-ft of sanitary sewer construction will impact the wetland. The proposed impact is located 550-ft east of Ridge Road along the south side of 5 Mile Road in Plymouth Township, Wayne County, MI.

Northville Charter Township has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: During conceptual design, it was determined that the existing sewer along the south side of Five Mile Road between Ridge Road and the Western Townships Utilities Authority's (WTUA's) interceptor sewer would need to be replaced, since it was not adequately sized to handle the flows that these developments were anticipated to generate. Part of this existing sewer runs through a low-lying wetland/floodplain that is tributary to the Johnson Drain to the North. During field investigations, it was observed that the existing sewer had very little cover in this area, with a depth of bury less than one foot at the shallowest point. To install the proposed sewer, which would be larger than the existing, some fill would be required within this low-lying area to provide adequate cover and avoid having the new sewer exposed as it passed through the wetland.

During the preliminary stages of design, several alternatives for providing sewer service to the Five Mile Corridor were evaluated: 1) Service by Force Main - Replacing the existing sewer with a force main which could be installed using trenchless methods and could pass under the wetland with sufficient cover was evaluated. However, the cost to construct a pump station for this force main as well as the ongoing operational and maintenance costs it would incur were prohibitive, especially given the relatively low flows this pump station would be expected to handle. 2) Alternate Alignments - A) Alternate routes to connect to the sanitary interceptor line were deemed infeasible, as they were miles long which would drastically increase the cost, schedule, and environmental impacts of constructing this sewer. B) Installing the sewer in the north side of the road was ruled out. This area is already crowded with existing utilities including water main, leaving no room for the sewer within the right of way (ROW), and faces similar challenges with grade and cover crossing the wetland due to the fixed elevation of the receiving sewer. C) Installing the sewer within the road itself was also not feasible for several reasons. The minimum depth of cover would not meet Wayne County standards for depth of bury beneath pavement, and the cost to remove and replace the pavement along the entire stretch of road would exceed the project scope. D) Alternate Construction Methods - Alternate construction methods such as jacking and boring through the wetland would not be possible. With the limited cover available for the shallow sewer, there is the potential risk of freezing during the winter months. Therefore, insulation will be required around the top and sides of the pipe, which will require excavation. E) "Do Nothing" Alternative - This alternative is not viable here since the existing sewer does not have the required capacity to serve the future developments.

The proposed design does as much as possible to mitigate the negative impacts this project will have on the wetland. The proposed sewer alignment will be several feet to the north of the existing sewer, reducing the impacted area of the wetland. The existing sewer will be abandoned in place rather than removed, eliminating the need for additional excavation. After construction, the area will be re-vegetated with plants native to the state of Michigan, preserving its natural character. The proposed plans have been discussed with the Michigan Department of the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), and they have indicated that compensatory cut will not be required since the impacted area of wetland is less than one tenth of an acre.

Northville Charter Township has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11990, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Northville Charter Township at the following address on or before **December 15, 2023:** Northville Charter Township, 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168, Attention: Bob Belair, Director of Public Services. Comments may also be submitted via email at bbelair@twp.northville.mi.us

Date: December 7, 2023

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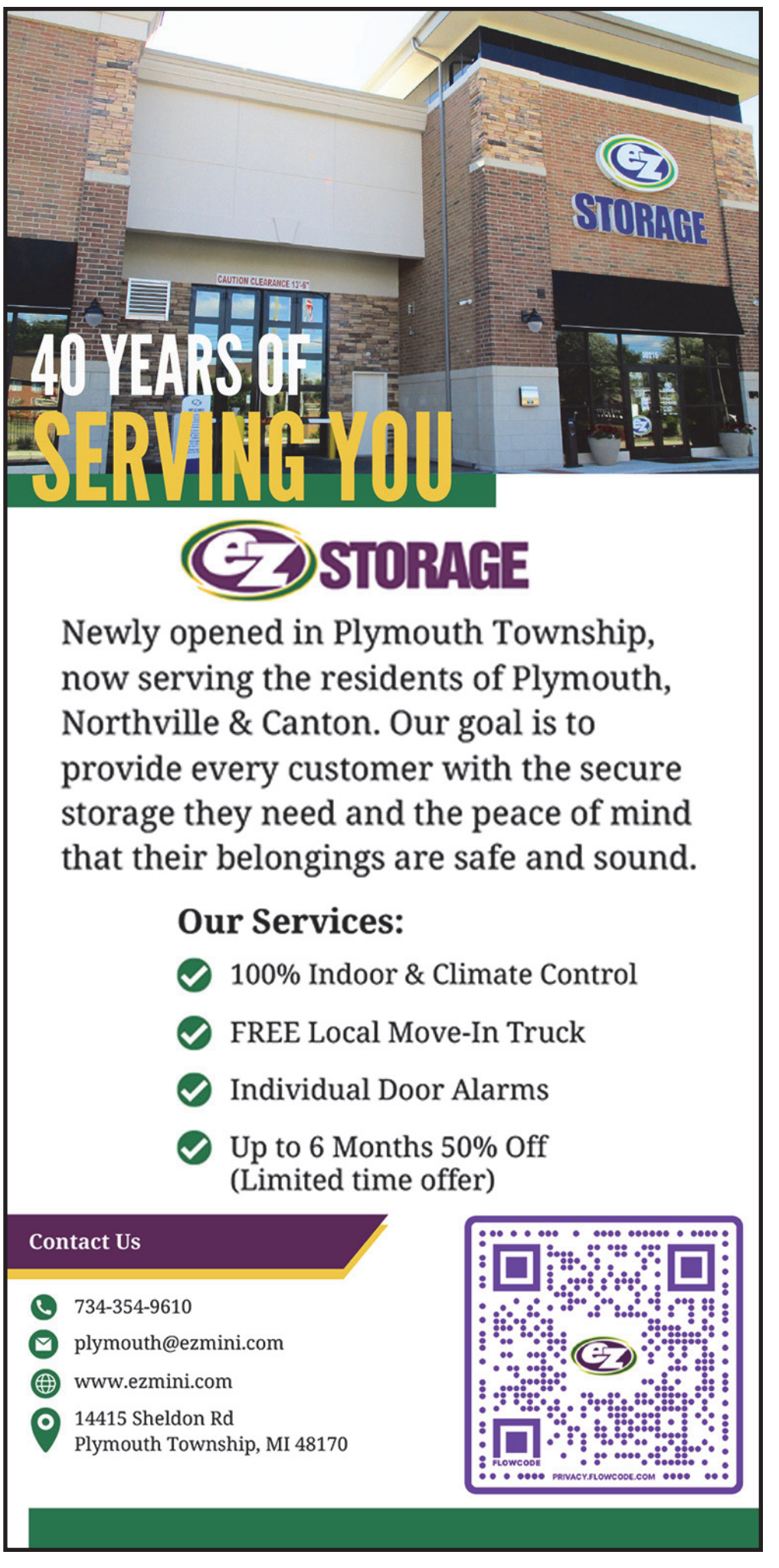
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CANTON - PLYMOUTH

Cobras proposed as replacement for Chief mascot

The Canton Cobras may be the future while the Canton Chiefs will remain part of the history of the Canton High School.

While protests from parents and alumni have accompanied the effort to change the Canton Chiefs mascot and logo, members of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education heard the first reading of an official name change during their meeting last month. If board members agree with the proposed change, it could be formally adopted following a second public reading.

The change was first proposed by a group of students who argued that the Chiefs could be interpreted by other students as racially biased. After more than a year, and a second effort by students to have the name changed, members of the board agreed to retire the Canton High School Chief mascot and logo. The 6-1 vote of the board members resulted in an ongoing recall effort against those members who voted in favor of the change.

Hal Heard, Plymouth Canton Community Schools director of high school education said students were asked earlier this year to submit suggestions for a new mascot. While 279 suggestions were received, 55 of those were eliminated as they suggested the current Chiefs designation. Students also suggested cardinals, cougars, coyotes, chargers and several other suggestions.

> *"Superintendent of Schools Monica Merritt said the cost to change the mascot and logo would be about $213,000.*

The suggestions were reviewed by a group of students to ensure the new logo and mascot was compliant with school district requirements and criteria. The students winnowed the suggestions to 10 names and Canton High School students and future students voted on those suggestions. The Cobras was the choice of 53 percent of the student votes, officials said. Cardinals received 29 percent of the vote while the coyotes received 17 percent of the vote.

Only about 1,100 students voted in the balloting.

Canton High School Principal David Reed-Nordwall said voting was the choice of students. "We didn't mandate or force all students to do it, so they also had the option not to participate," he said.

Superintendent of Schools Monica Merritt said the cost to change the mascot and logo would be about $213,000. While some of that expense might be funded by grants, there is no guarantee of any forthcoming grant money.

"I want to emphasize that in recommending a new mascot, we are embracing our future," Heard said during the meeting. "It does not change our history or legacies tied to the retired Chiefs mascot. The winning seasons, records, plaques and other positive memories will remain. The school colors of red and white will also remain."

Market

FROM PAGE 1

tickets will be available at $15. The activity tent, sponsored by Sun & Snow and Michigan First Credit Union. Tickets provide entry into a world of festive activities at the corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Forest Street, including cookie decorating, writing letters to Santa, making reindeer food, crafting cinnamon trees and jingle bell necklaces along with games inside the cozy tent.

Local restaurants have sponsored the traditional horse-drawn carriage rides. Tickets are priced at $75 for a private six-person carriage and $15 per person for the 12-passenger wagon. Tours depart the North and South Pole stations, along Ann Arbor Trail every 20 minutes between 5 and 9 p.m.

Music and caroling will be provided by the Schoolcraft Brass Ensemble, Isbister Elementary, Pioneer and East Middle School choirs, Gallimore, Bird Elementary and others. There will be a special holiday show with Canton Chiefettes Pom Team along Main Street. Musical performances by local favorites The Robert Burkhart Band, Caldarona Performance Studio and the Hayden Cusmano Group are also planned.

One of the most sought-after caricature artists in the Midwest, Bil Barrett, will be in town to create comical sketches of visitors of all ages. The drawings are free, but tips will be appreciated.

Visitors can meet Buddy the elf, compliments of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services at 294 S. Main St. at the Berkshire Hathaway Home Services office. Also in attendance for the evening will be the Grinch and Cindy Lou, Santa, Elves and others.

Visitors are warned to keep an eye out for elves giving away downtown gift cards to random shoppers during the event.

Back to the future

When Rotary District Governor Russ Jones paid a visit to his home club last month, he was treated to a special ride in club member Jan Eisen's vintage Delorean. During Jones' visit, several new members were inducted into the club as the group prepares for the 100th anniversary of Rotary.

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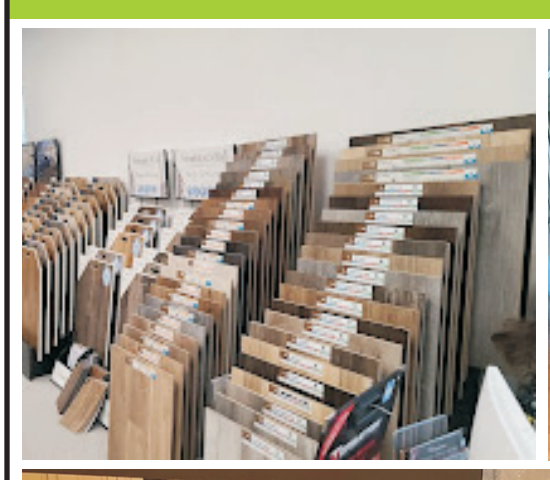

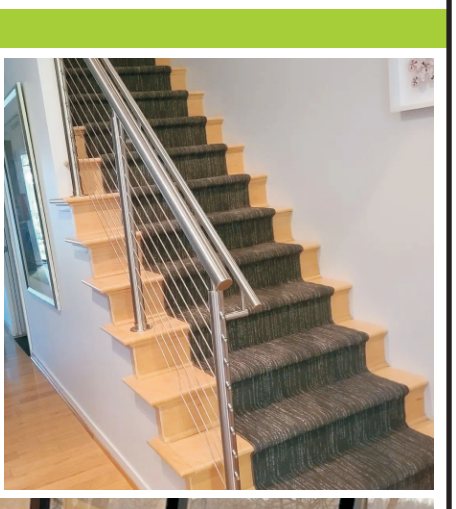

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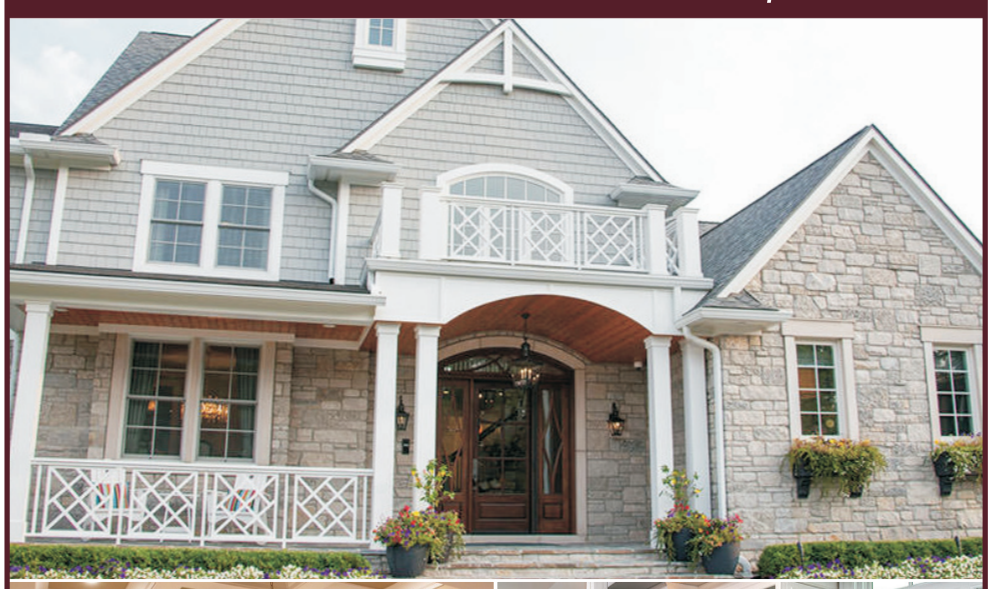

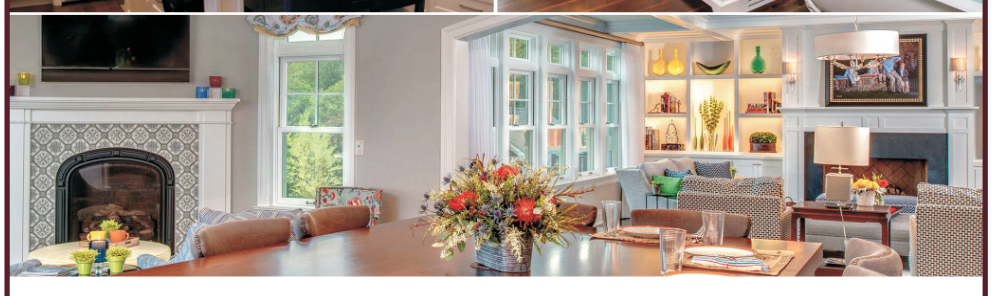

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Wayne - Westland

Former Wayne City Councilman takes plea deal

Former Wayne City Councilman Christopher Sanders, 54, will serve two years on probation after pleading guilty to a single charge of attempted false report of a felony in a plea deal with Wayne County prosecutors.

In exchange for his guilty plea, charges of false report of a felony and conspiracy to commit false report of a felony were dismissed by the court. During an Oct. 30 hearing before Judge Donald Knapp in Third District Court, Sanders admitted his guilt on the court record. If he had been convicted during a jury trial, sentencing guidelines dictate a minimum 2 years in prison and a $2,000 fine on one charge with a maximum prison sentence of 4 years. While Sanders had consistently rejected any plea deal, during the court hearing Prosecutor Matthew Penney said he would seek the maximum prison time possible should the case go to a jury trial.

As part of the plea deal, prosecutors agreed not to pursue charges of obstruction of justice against Sanders alleged in an April 27 incident. Sanders was represented by attorney Jeffrey McCarthy.

Sanders was initially charged along with Jimmie Lee Chandler, 31, of Van Buren Township, in connection with the alleged planting of a starter pistol and fake drugs in a city employee's car. Charges filed in September 2020 alleged Sanders paid Chandler to break into the car of former Wayne City Manager Lisa Nocerini on Oct. 16, 2017 and plant a starter pistol and fake drugs in the vehicle. Prosecutors alleged that after watching Nocerini leave the Wayne City Hall parking lot, Chandler called 911 to report a false road rage incident and identified Nocerini's vehicle. Police did not stop Nocerini who subsequently discovered the pistol and suspected narcotics in her glovebox, she reported the finding to the Wayne police. An investigation by the Michigan State Police eventually led to the arrest of Sanders and Chandler.

Sanders was recalled from his city council position during a special election in 2018.

The plea agreement calls for Sanders to serve 90 days in the Wayne County Jail to be held in abeyance for successful completion of 2 years of probation.

Christopher Sanders

Random kindness

The Compassion Project at the Westland City Council meeting on Monday, Nov. 6 introduced three outstanding students from three different elementary schools. Each child was chosen for this award because of the random acts of kindness they all implemented towards their classmates, teachers, and/or classroom. Kaleb Eikenberg from Wildwood Elementary School demonstrated a random act of kindness was when he helped a classmate with a math puzzle. Sadie Strong from Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary School helped clean up trash in her classroom without being asked and Aubree Heckerton from P. D. Graham Elementary School demonstrated a random act of kindness was when she asked a student who was crying in the office if she was OK and asked if she wanted a hug to feel better. Each of the students was applauded at the Westland City Council meeting last week.

Education foundation provides grant funding to teachers

Julie Brown
Special Writer

Brandi Smith sees inequities among area school districts in classroom funding. It is her job to help address that situation.

"It's such a foundation of what a community is," the Canton Township resident said of school districts. Since this past January, her focus has been the Wayne-Westland Foundation for the Improvement of Instruction. Both a golf outing and a wine event draw business support, allowing the foundation to distribute grants to Wayne-Westland teachers for classroom use. One example? Tablets for kids who can't communicate.

"That is really just giving students greater opportunity," the foundation executive director said of the $15,000 in grants awarded last spring. "I feel like this next year is going to continue to grow. It made me so excited and proud.."

The foundation origins go back to around 1980 and it was "revived" about five years ago, "so we can do more for the Wayne-Westland community," said Maria Mitter, a school district staffer and Westland Rotary co-president. Mitter recently invited Smith to share foundation success with Rotarians.

The Wayne-Westland district is in a budget shortfall of some $17 million , although that's separate from foundation work which receives business support.

Smith is a John Glenn High School graduate and recalled her own school days: "We didn't have to worry about bringing pencils and crayons."

She earned a bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University and raised a family, including a child who's also a Glenn graduate.

"There was a need and it just kind of worked," Smith said of the foundation. Twice a year, district teachers apply for grants. One social studies teacher received supplies to create an escape room, a popular trend.

"For teachers who want to do something really innovative, the foundation was founded," Mitter said.

Each grant can be as much as $1,000. The program is separate from the district Family Resource Center, which assists low-income families, in that it is more "classroom-oriented."

Smith has seen greater opportunity in Plymouth-Canton district and others, and believes Wayne-Westland students count, too. "Every kid deserves equality in education," she concluded.

The Wayne-Westland Foundation for the Improvement of Instruction is online at wwcsfoundation.org.

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ROMULUS MI 48174**

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDON AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION ON 12/20/2023 AT 12:30 P.M.

2012 DODGE
2C3CDXBG9CH139598
2009 MAZDA
1YVHP82A895M30534
2003 DODGE
1D7HU18N93S113585
2011 JEEP
1J4RR4GG0BC534473
2009 PONTIAC
1G2ZH57N194177228
2001 DODGE
1B7HF13Z31J230970
2013 CHEVROLET
1G11E5SA0DF323453
2010 DODGE
1B3CB4HA8AD527596
2007 CHRYSLER
2A4GP44R97R354118
2003 GMC
1GTDT13X03K101748
2019 FORD
3FA6P0K93KR264534
2008 CHEVROLET
2CNDL83F586076125
1988 JEEP
2BCCV81M2JB518868
1999 MERCURY
1MEFM53U8XG612070
2006 PONTIAC
1G2ZH558864222318
1994 FORD
1FDEE14H4RHB54749
2013 CHEVROLET
1G1PC5SB1D7125922
2002 CHRYSLER
2C4GP74L62R558550
2001 DODGE
1B3ES46C61D266725
2008 FORD
1FTNE24W08DB27157
2014 FORD
1FMCU9G91EUA06444
2000 PONTIAC
1G2HZ5411Y4181952
2004 DODGE
1D7HA18D24S564309
2008 FORD
1FAHP24W08G151065
2006 FORD
1FTRF12276KD49292
2007 FORD
1FMFU20577LA76678
2002 YAMAHA
JYARN10N32A000447
2008 SUZUKI
JS1VY53A382101804

ROMULUS

Chamber seeking 2023 Person of the Year

Romulus residents have only until Dec. 15 to nominate a candidate as the 37th Annual Person of the Year.

A committee named by the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce will review the nominations and announce their selection in January. An award ceremony will take place honoring the awardee in the spring of 2024, officials said.

Criteria for nominations require that those suggested for the honor are individuals who have made significant contributions to Romulus and city residents. A biographical synopsis should be provided stating reasons the nominee should be honored as the Person of the Year.

The deadline to submit nominations is Dec.15. Anything postmarked and/or received after that date will not be accepted. The nomination form can be filled out online or can be mailed, emailed or dropped off at the Chamber of Commerce office, 11189 Shook Road, Suite 200, Romulus, MI 48174. Nomination forms are available at the office. For more information, contact admin@romuluschamber.org.

> *"The nominee does not have to be a resident of Romulus but must have made a significant contribution to the community.*

Nominations can be made by anyone. The person submitting a nominee must submit their telephone number or email address, so chamber officials can contact them.

The nominee does not have to be a resident of Romulus but must have made a significant contribution to the community, officials stressed.

Artists' entries for downtown exhibit are sought

The City of Romulus Arts Council is seeking high quality images from artists and photographers for a permanent outdoor public art installation in June 2024. This year, the theme is "Acts of Community Service through Art." The Top Three Artists will win Cash Prizes.

The top prize for first place is $1,000, officials said, while second place will receive a $500 award and the third place winner will receive $250. As many as eight additional artists will receive $50 as winners of honorable mention awards and have their work reproduced and displayed downtown in Romulus. There is a an entry fee of $25 for three images.

Checks or money orders which accompany entries should be made payable to : Romulus Arts Council, Inc., 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174. For more information, call (734) 955-4533. Entry forms are available at www.romulusgov.com

Email images and entry forms to: Romulus_arts_council@romulusgov.com

The deadline for submission is April 15, 2024. Winners will be announced before the first Sounds in Downtown concert on Friday, June 14, 2024, during a light reception. Artists may display their art for sale at the reception officials said.

Volunteers needed to help place wreaths for ceremony

The City of Romulus will once again participate in the annual Wreaths Across America recognition of veterans which takes place throughout the country. The ceremony this year is planned for noon on Saturday, Dec. 16 at the Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

The national event is a gathering of volunteers and patriots in local, state and national cemeteries in all 50 states - most recently at 3,702 participating locations - as part of National Wreaths Across America Day. Each year, a new theme is chosen to help volunteers and supporters focus their outreach in their communities. The national nonprofit theme for 2023 is "Serve and Succeed."

Volunteers to help place the wreaths are still needed, a VFW spokesman said.

The Dec. 16 event in Romulus will be free and open to the public.

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www.associatednewspapers.net.

On the job

Three new officers recently joined the Romulus Police Department and were welcomed by Mayor Robert McCraight, third from left, and Police Chief Richard Pfannes. The new officers are recent police academy graduates and will now complete field training with an experienced Romulus officer. Joining the force are, from left, Christian Otter, Nathaniel Sims and Marcus Matheson.

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Inkster - Sumpter

Sumpter strays to be cared for by Brownstown Animal Shelter

Stray dogs found in Sumpter Township will be cared for by the Brownstown Township Animal Shelter along with the Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue.

Neither facility, according to Sumpter Township Director of Public Safety/Police Chief Eric Luke, has the capacity to care for the 50 or so stray dogs annually picked up by officers in the township.

Luke told the members of the township board of trustees during the Nov. 14 meeting that the number of stray dogs has put some stress on the capacity at the FMAR shelter. Pets adopted during COVID when people expected to work from home for the duration of their careers are being returned to shelters as people return to offices and are unable to care for the animals.

"We'll work through it," Luke told the trustees.

He explained that when the township had a shelter facility, he found having a "sworn police officer at the facility at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. feeding dogs and shoveling dog crap was not a good use of a police officer's time."

While having a local shelter seems like a good idea, Luke explained, it is difficult to staff and often volunteer staff members can be tentative and somewhat unreliable, once again leaving the township to hire a full or part-time employee to care for the animals.

> *Many of the strays are the bully breeds such as pit bulls or shepherds that are difficult to adopt out.*

"When the volunteers dry up, you're left with the plan you didn't plan on," he said.

"Don't get me wrong, volunteers are great, but people don't want to be stuck with a certain time they have to be somewhere."

Luke said he reached out to Brownstown shelter officials and is also going to meet with officials from the Romulus Animal Shelter in an effort to ensure the stray animals get proper care when they are picked up in the township.

Another problem is the breeds of dogs which somehow end up in Sumpter Township, Luke said.

Many of the strays are the bully breeds such as pit bulls or shepherds that are difficult to adopt out. Luke said the township picks up an average in the 50s of dogs annually and this year should total nearly 60.

In the regular meeting following the study session, trustees unanimously approved a two-year contract with the Brownstown shelter to care for the stray animals.

Township Clerk Esther Hurst was absent from the meeting.

Man sentenced to life in prison following fatal stabbing of senior

An Inkster man has been sentenced to life in prison for the fatal stabbing of a 60-year-old Inkster man last year.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy charged Edward Barnes, 47, of Inkster, in connection with the fatal stabbing of Carles Randall Tye, 60, also of Inkster. Barnes was found guilty during a bench trial before Third Circuit Court Judge Bradley L. Cobb and sentenced to life in prison.

> *Proscutors told the court that stabbed the victim, fatally injuring him and also stabbed the victim's dog.*

Court documents alleged that at approximately 9:17 p.m. May 14, 2022, Inkster police officers were dispatched to a residence in the 30050 block of Annapolis Circle in Inkster for a reported stabbing. Upon their arrival, officers located the victim in the kitchen with a kitchen knife in his upper left abdomen. Medics arrived on scene and pronounced to victim deceased, according to police reports.

Proscutors told the court that stabbed the victim, fatally injuring him and also stabbed the victim's dog before fleeing the scene.

Investigation by the Inkster Police Department led to the arrest of the defendant on May 15, 2022.

Barnes was charged with one count of premeditated first-degree murder on May 28, 2022. He was arraigned and remanded to jail awaiting trial. Barnes was sentenced to life in prison by Cobb during a court appearance last week.

Suspect to face trial following recovery from 7 wounds received in gun battle

A Westland man will face trial on seven charges including torture and domestic violence following his recovery from seven bullet wounds he received in a separate Inkster incident.

Dekenta Reshard Parchman, 31, will face the charges during a jury trial set for April 15. Among the charges are the torture of a woman July 23 in the Parkwood Apartments in Van Buren Township and a separate charge of domestic violence in Romulus on Jan. 25, 2022. He is also accused of criminal sexual conduct, first degree with personal injury; assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder; unlawful driving away of a motor vehicle; two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon and aggravated domestic violence.

Following the incident in Van Buren, prosecutors allege he fled the scene and was involved in a gun battle in Inkster where he suffered seven gunshot wounds. Trial on the charges was delayed while he was under medical care at the Wayne County Jail hospital where he underwent multiple surgeries for the wounds.

> *Following the incident in Van Buren, prosecutors allege he fled the scene and was involved in a gun battle in Inkster.*

He was remanded to jail with a cash or surety bond of $250,000 and if released, must wear a GPS tether, according to court documents.

During his arraignment, two warrant cases from Van Buren Township were included in the proceedings.

He was charged with driving while license suspended and interfering with police during an incident at 5:20 a.m. Oct. 20, 2020. He is also charged with possession of firearms by a felon, carrying a concealed weapon and felony firearm in connection with an Aug. 8, 2022 incident.

Bond on those charges was set at $10,000 during his arraignment.

His jury trial, according to prosecutors, will include all those charges but exclude his court appearance Sept. 9 on a tether violation.

Center

FROM PAGE 1

When her youngest son was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, she returned to college for her second master's degree in autism spectrum disorders from Madonna University.

Looking for social skills groups that would benefit her son brought her to the realization that there were few and far between. Those available cost an exorbitant amount of money and had her driving 45 minutes each way. She created her own local group which met at the Farmington Public Library.

Realizing the need for services for individuals with disabilities, and their families, she took a leap of faith and quit her job after being a special education teacher for 20 years, selling her family home, drawing money from her retirement fund and downsizing her life to begin the Living and Learning Center.

Vartanian expressed her deep gratitude for the continued support: "The Wendell and Doris Rogers Foundation's unwavering commitment to our cause is not just a financial contribution; it's a powerful endorsement of our vision. Their support empowers us to enrich the lives of those we serve, and it's an honor to carry forward the legacy of Wendell and Doris Rogers in our daily work. Together, we are creating a lasting impact that transcends beyond our immediate community."

Living and Learning staff members also thanked other foundations, corporations, and private citizens who share the vision of the center. "It's through these partnerships that we can collectively work towards providing a higher quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families," added Vartanian.

For more information about Living and Learning Enrichment Center and its programs, or to learn how to support its mission, visit livingandlearningcenter.org.

WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE

Eric R. Sabree - Wayne County Treasurer

Property tax payment plans are available now!

Interest Reduction Stipulated Payment Agreement (IRSPA)

This payment plan reduces the interest rate from 18% to 6% for eligible taxpayers. To sign up, you must own and live in your home, and have a Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) and ID that proves residency.

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This program is not available to everyone. If you own and live in the property, and are suffering financial hardship you may qualify for this program. Proof of ownership, occupancy, and hardship are required.

Stipulated Payment Agreement (SPA)

Available to everybody, this plan allows a taxpayer to pay taxes pursuant to a payment schedule. The plan will avoid foreclosure provided that payments are submitted per the agreed upon schedule.

Pay As You Stay Payment Agreement (PAYSPA)

Only for those who have first applied for their local municipality's Poverty Tax Exemption (PTE) and received an approval. Once notified by your local Assessor's office and deemed eligible, our office will mail you a notification letter with your Reduced Amount Due. You will have the option of paying a lump sum (additional 10% off) or enrolling into a PAYSPA.

Many of these plans are available online at treasurer.waynecounty.com!

For more information, email WCTOPaymentPlans@waynecounty.com or call (313) 224-5990.